

STATE AGENCY COVID-19 UPDATES

May 5, 2020

Food truck vendors can apply for temporary permit to operate at rest areas

Food truck vendors are invited to apply for a temporary permit to operate at one of six highway rest stops in Minnesota as a means to offer an additional meal option for truck drivers.

- The action is made possible under Gov. Tim Walz's Executive Order 20-49, which recognizes that many restaurants across the United States have closed and fresh meal options are limited for truck drivers on the road.
- Food truck permits are good for only one week (either May 3-9 or May 10-17). Applicants must commit to operating at the selected rest area for at least four days of the week for which they are requesting. Rest areas are restricted to three food trucks per shift (7-11 a.m.; 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.; 4-9 p.m.).
- The Minnesota rest areas are: St. Croix (I-94 westbound); Enfield (I-94 eastbound); Forest Lake (I-35 southbound); New Market (I-35 southbound); Marion (I-90 westbound); and Fuller Lake (I-94 westbound).
- The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will review and approve applications on a first-come, first-served basis.
- For more information, and to download a permit, visit [MnDOT's Safety Rest Area website](#).

Federal disaster declaration for Individual Assistance paves the way for crisis counseling

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved Minnesota's request for Individual Assistance as part of the state's federal major disaster declaration related to COVID-19.

- The approval allows Minnesota to utilize federal resources to provide emotional support, crisis counseling and connection to community support programs.
- Services will be provided at no cost and will be available to anyone affected by COVID-19.
- The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) will now work with FEMA and state agencies to begin implementing this assistance.

Minnesota National Guard conducting flyovers on Wednesday

The Minnesota National Guard will be conducting statewide flyovers in recognition of those on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic response.

- The aircraft flying these missions will be combinations of F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft from the 148th Fighter Wing out of Duluth, and C-130 Hercules aircraft from the 133rd Air Wing out of Fort Snelling in St. Paul.
- Times and locations are available on the [Minnesota National Guard website](#).
- Anyone interested in viewing the flyover is asked to respect those whom we honor by maintaining appropriate social distancing while viewing the flyover.
- For communities not covered in these flyovers please follow the Minnesota National Guard on social media to see video and photos honoring all essential workers throughout the state.

STATE AGENCY COVID-19 UPDATES

SEOC continues effort to obtain, deliver personal protective equipment

The SEOC remains fully activated and staffed either physically or virtually by all state agencies and several volunteer organizations.

- Officials in the SEOC are working with FEMA to obtain testing supplies in Minnesota. The latest shipment of testing supplies from FEMA was sent on Monday.
- SEOC officials are working to fill personal protective equipment requests from law enforcement across the state.
- The SEOC continues supporting the state hotline, which received 53 calls on May 4. Employees are answering calls at 651-297-1304 or 800-657-3504. The hotline is currently operating from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

State sees 27 more COVID-19 deaths in past 24 hours

- 455 reported deaths — an increase of 27 since May 4; 23 of the 27 deaths were people in long-term care facilities.
- 7,851 lab-confirmed cases in Minnesota — an increase of 617 cases since May 4.
- 434 patients are currently hospitalized with 182 in intensive care units (ICU). The number of ICU patients is up 16 from May 4.
- 4,614 patients have been released from isolation.
- Learn more about the latest lab-diagnosed cases on the [COVID-19 public dashboard](#).

911 calls see 9 percent decrease in year-to-year data

Call volumes for Minnesota public safety answering points (PSAPs), also known as 911 dispatch centers, saw a 9 percent year-to-year decrease last week, according to statistics provided by CenturyLink to the Department of Public Safety division of Emergency Communication Networks (DPS-ECN).

- Minnesota PSAPs answered 52,696 calls between April 26 through May 2 this year.
- In 2019, Minnesota PSAPs received 58,065 calls during that same comparable week.

MDE provides guidance to allow for adult basic education students to complete in-person assessments

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker, in consultation with Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm, is expanding guidance to allow adult basic education students to complete their General Equivalency Diploma (GED) testing in-person.

- This guidance applies to certified GED Testing Centers in school district or charter schools buildings, not all GED testing centers.
- This guidance expands the use of guidance issued on April 29, 2020, that allowed students to go into school buildings for very specific needs that cannot be met in a distance learning format.
- Many school districts and charter schools have already determined workarounds to be able to meet these needs in a distance learning environment. In these cases, school buildings would not be used, as these provisions are intended for students when the work cannot be done outside of a school building.
- Schools can access the guidance on [MDE's COVID-19 webpage](#).

STATE AGENCY COVID-19 UPDATES

Schools reporting more than 8.8 million meals served

MDE has asked districts and charter schools to self-report the daily number of meals they are serving to the school communities and the number of students receiving school-age care.

- The final count over the fifth week of distance learning, with about 368 school districts and charter schools reporting, are:
 - 2,228,541 meals served
 - 6,939 average school-age students cared for each day
- The combined total for the first five weeks of distance learning, with about 350 school districts and charter schools reporting, are:
 - 8,879,964 meals served
 - 6,607 average school-age students cared for each day

Traffic volumes remain below 2019 averages

MnDOT continues to monitor [traffic volumes](#) statewide.

- Metro area: Traffic volumes on Monday, May 4 were down 24 percent compared to Monday averages for May 2019.
- Statewide: Traffic volumes on Monday, May 4 were down 23 percent compared to Monday averages for May 2019.